

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 17582 021806Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 HA-05 CIAE-00
DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 /100 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3473
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 17582

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, BE, CG, US
SUBJECT: CURRENT BELGIAN VIEWS ON THE "MOBUTU PLAN"

REF: KINSHASA 11236

1. DURING DECEMBER 2 BRUSSELS VISIT OF AF/C DIRECTOR LEWIS JUNIOR, WE EXCHANGED VIEWS WITH SENIOR BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS (SCHOUMAKER, CAHEN, ONKELINX, LEBRUN) ON THE "MOBUTU PLAN" FOLLOWING MOBUTU'S NOVEMBER 25TH SPEECH (REFTEL). BELGIANS WERE NOT MUCH ADVANCED IN THEIR THINKING ON SPECIFICS OF WHERE WE GO FROM HERE BUT VIEWED THE MOBUTU SPEECH AS SUFFICIENTLY FORTH-COMING TO JUSTIFY SENDING AN INTERMINISTERIAL TEAM (MALDAGUE GROUP) TO KINSHASA.

2. ONKELYNX AND MALDAGUE GROUP WILL DEPART FOR KINSHASA THE AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 3 (SAME PLANE AS JUNIOR)
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AND PLAN TO REMAIN THROUGHOUT THE WEEK. DEFENSE MINISTER VANDEN BOEYNANTS WILL LEAD ANOTHER GROUP TO MOBUTU'S SWEARING-IN CEREMONY, DEPARTING BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 4.

3. BELGIANS SAID THAT MOBUTU SPEECH RAISED MORE QUESTIONS THAN IT ANSWERED; STRESSED THAT MALDAGUE

GROUP WOULD ASK THE ZAIRIANS "SPECIFIC HARD QUESTIONS"; AND, ON THE BASIS OF ZAIRIANS' ANSWERS, DETERMINE WHERE TO GO NEXT ON COORDINATION OF A MULTILATERAL RESPONSE TO THE MOBUTU PLAN. THEY UNDERLINED NECESSITY OF ESTABLISHING, UNDER MULTILATERAL AUSPICES, A "STRICT MECHANISM" FOR MONITORING ZAIRIAN USE OF RESOURCES, AND AGREED THAT MULTILATERAL DONORS MUST DENY MOBUTU THE OPPORTUNITY TO PLAY ONE NATION OFF AGAINST ANOTHER. THERE WAS SOME DISCUSSION AS TO WHETHER THE IBRD'S CONSULTATIVE GROUP MIGHT BE THE BEST ORGANISM TO CARRY OUT THIS REQUIRED MONITORING/COORDINATING FUNCTION.

4. ONKELYNX STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF CLOSE U.S./BELGIAN COOPERATION IN RESPONDING TO MOBUTU INITIATIVE AND PROPOSED TO JUNIOR THAT MALDAGUE GROUP MEET WITH AMBASSADOR CUTLER AND JUNIOR IN KINSHASA THE EVENING OF DECEMBER 7TH, AFTER ALL HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO ANALYSE DEVELOPMENTS ON THE SCENE.

5. LATER IN THE AFTERNOON, WE MET WITH CHEF DE CABINET CAHEN, WHO CONFIRMED ESSENCE OF ABOVE AND SAID THAT DURING THE NOVEMBER 11 MEETING WITH MOBUTU IN KINSHASA HE HAD CLEARLY PUT TO MOBUTU THE "RRECONDITION" THAT TECHNICIANS FROM THE DONOR GROUP BE PUT IN KEY POSITIONS TO MONITOR AND CONTROL IMPLEMENTATION OF CONFIDENTIAL

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MOBUTU PLAN. CAHEN SAID MOBUTU AGREED TO THIS, RECOGNIZING THAT SUCH A CONTROL MECHANISM WITH CLEARLY DELEGATED AUTHORITY WOULD HELP HIM JUSTIFY THE NEW REFORMS TO HIS POLITICAL BASES AND HELP HIM FEND OFF PRESSURES TO ALLOW THEM THEIR TRADITIONAL SPOILS.

6. COMMENT: BELGIANS SEEMED TO BE IN HOPES U.S. MIGHT TAKE LEAD IN SUGGESTING AN "INFORMAL WORKING GROUP" OF DONORS TO PERFORM COORDINATING ROLE. WE INDICATED ONLY THAT WE ARE STILL LOOKING TO BELGIANS TO FLESH OUT THE EX-MARSHALL NOW MOBUTU PLAN IRRESPECTIVE OF WHETHER THEY STILL CONSIDER THEY ARE "COORDINATORS" OF POTENTIAL DONOR GROUP. OLSEN

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